

In 2014, it was found that some VA Department employees were responsible for deliberately falsifying wait-time records for veteran's medical appointments in order to create the appearance of reaching wait-time targets.

This falsification of records even resulted in the unfortunate death of several veterans who were forced to wait unreasonably long periods of time before receiving the healthcare they unquestionably earned.

H.R. 294 is intended to prevent another unacceptable incident and to ensure our veterans receive the healthcare they deserve.

H.R. 294 allows veterans to obtain health care at non-VA health care facilities if they live more than 40 miles from a VA clinic or cannot be scheduled for an appointment at a VA clinic within 30 days.

Further, the bill increases the VA's capacity to provide health care services by providing expedited authority to hire more doctors and nurses and by providing for leases for the opening of 27 additional VA health facilities across the nation.

This bill will also propose a three year pilot program which will transfer certain veterans to non-department medical foster homes if they are unable to live independently at the cost of the VA.

It is our duty to make available only the best health care to our veterans, and I cite as an example the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston.

The DeBakey VA Medical Center provides world-class services to almost 130,000 veterans in southeast Texas and employs over 4,000 health care professionals.

The DeBakey VA Medical Center has earned prestigious awards and accreditations for the quality of care provided, including:

Accreditation from Joint Commission for hospital, long-term care, behavioral health care, home care, and substance abuse;

Re-designation for Magnet Recognition for Excellence in Nursing Services by the American Nurses Credentialing Center;

Gold Seal of Approval in 2011 from the Joint Commission as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center; and

Specialty accreditation by the American Psychological Association Commission on Accreditation for its Clinical Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Program.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans have given this country so much and we owe it to them and to ourselves that they have the best and most accessible health care services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 294, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 294, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 280, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Any remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

LONG-TERM CARE VETERANS CHOICE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 294) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the transfer of veterans to non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 0, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 107]

YEAS—405

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| Abraham | Bost | Carter (TX) |
| Adams | Boustany | Cartwright |
| Aderholt | Boyle, Brendan | Castro (TX) |
| Aguilar | F. | Chabot |
| Allen | Brady (PA) | Chaffetz |
| Amash | Brady (TX) | Chu, Judy |
| Amodei | Brat | Cicilline |
| Ashford | Bridenstine | Clark (MA) |
| Babin | Brooks (AL) | Clarke (NY) |
| Barletta | Brooks (IN) | Clawson (FL) |
| Barr | Brown (FL) | Clay |
| Barton | Brownley (CA) | Cleaver |
| Beatty | Buchanan | Clyburn |
| Becerra | Buck | Coffman |
| Benish | Bucshon | Cohen |
| Bera | Burgess | Cole |
| Beyer | Bustos | Collins (GA) |
| Bilirakis | Butterfield | Collins (NY) |
| Bishop (GA) | Byrne | Comstock |
| Bishop (MI) | Calvert | Conaway |
| Bishop (UT) | Capps | Connolly |
| Black | Capuano | Cook |
| Blackburn | Cardenas | Cooper |
| Blum | Carney | Costa |
| Blumenauer | Carson (IN) | Costello (PA) |
| Bonamici | Carter (GA) | Courtney |

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cramer | Jackson Lee | Nunes |
| Crowley | Jeffries | O'Rourke |
| Cuellar | Jenkins (KS) | Olson |
| Culberson | Jenkins (WV) | Pallazzo |
| Cummings | Johnson (GA) | Pallone |
| Curbelo (FL) | Johnson (OH) | Palmer |
| Davis (CA) | Johnson, E. B. | Pascarell |
| Davis, Danny | Johnson, Sam | Paulsen |
| Davis, Rodney | Jolly | Payne |
| DeFazio | Jones | Pearce |
| DeGette | Jordan | Pelosi |
| Delaney | Joyce | Perlmutter |
| DeLauro | Kaptur | Perry |
| DelBene | Katko | Peters |
| Denham | Keating | Peterson |
| Dent | Kelly (IL) | Pingree |
| DeSantis | Kelly (PA) | Pittenger |
| DeSaulnier | Kennedy | Pitts |
| DesJarlais | Kildee | Pocan |
| Deutch | Kilmer | Poe (TX) |
| Diaz-Balart | Kind | Poliquin |
| Dingell | King (IA) | Polis |
| Doggett | King (NY) | Pompeo |
| Dold | Kinziger (IL) | Posey |
| Doyle, Michael | Kirkpatrick | Price (NC) |
| F. | Kline | Price, Tom |
| Duckworth | Kuster | Quigley |
| Duffy | Labrador | Rangel |
| Duncan (SC) | LaMalfa | Ratcliffe |
| Duncan (TN) | Lamborn | Reed |
| Edwards | Lance | Reichert |
| Ellison | Langevin | Renacci |
| Ellmers (NC) | Larsen (WA) | Ribble |
| Emmer (MN) | Larson (CT) | Rice (NY) |
| Eshoo | Latta | Rice (SC) |
| Esty | Lawrence | Rigell |
| Farenthold | Lee | Roby |
| Farr | Levin | Rogers (AL) |
| Fattah | Lewis | Rogers (KY) |
| Fitzpatrick | Lieu, Ted | Rokita |
| Fleischmann | Lipinski | Rooney (FL) |
| Fleming | LoBiondo | Ros-Lehtinen |
| Forbes | Loeback | Roskam |
| Fortenberry | Loftgren | Ross |
| Foster | Loudermilk | Rothfus |
| Fox | Love | Rouzer |
| Frankel (FL) | Lowenthal | Roybal-Allard |
| Franks (AZ) | Lowe | Royce |
| Frelinghuysen | Lucas | Ruiz |
| Fudge | Luetkemeyer | Ruppersberger |
| Gabbard | Lujan Grisham | Russell |
| Gallo | (NM) | Ryan (OH) |
| Garamendi | Lujan, Ben Ray | Ryan (WI) |
| Garrett | (NM) | Salmon |
| Gibbs | Lummis | Sánchez, Linda |
| Gibson | Lynch | T. |
| Gohmert | MacArthur | Sanford |
| Goodlatte | Maloney, | Sarbanes |
| Gosar | Carolyn | Scalise |
| Gowdy | Maloney, Sean | Schakowsky |
| Graham | Marchant | Schiff |
| Granger | Marino | Schock |
| Graves (GA) | Massie | Schrader |
| Graves (LA) | Matsui | Schweikert |
| Graves (MO) | McCarthy | Scott (VA) |
| Grayson | McCaul | Scott, Austin |
| Green, Al | McClintock | Scott, David |
| Green, Gene | McCollum | Sensenbrenner |
| Griffith | McDermott | Serrano |
| Grijalva | McGovern | Sessions |
| Grothman | McHenry | Sewell (AL) |
| Guinta | McKinley | Sherman |
| Guthrie | McMorris | Shimkus |
| Hahn | Rodgers | Shuster |
| Hanna | McNerney | Simpson |
| Hardy | McSally | Sinema |
| Harper | Meadows | Sires |
| Harris | Meehan | Slaughter |
| Hastings | Meng | Smith (MO) |
| Heck (NV) | Messer | Smith (NE) |
| Heck (WA) | Mica | Smith (NJ) |
| Hensarling | Miller (FL) | Smith (TX) |
| Herrera Beutler | Miller (MI) | Smith (WA) |
| Hice, Jody B. | Moolenaar | Stefanik |
| Higgins | Mooney (WV) | Stewart |
| Hill | Moore | Stivers |
| Himes | Moulton | Swalwell (CA) |
| Holding | Mullin | Takai |
| Honda | Mulvaney | Takano |
| Hoyer | Murphy (FL) | Thompson (CA) |
| Hudson | Murphy (PA) | Thompson (MS) |
| Huelskamp | Napolitano | Thompson (PA) |
| Huffman | Neal | Thornberry |
| Huizenga (MI) | Neugebauer | Tiberi |
| Hunter | Newhouse | Tipton |
| Hurd (TX) | Noem | Titus |
| Hurt (VA) | Nolan | Torres |
| Israel | Norcross | Trott |
| Issa | Nugent | Tsongas |

| | | |
|------------|----------------|-------------|
| Turner | Walters, Mimi | Wilson (SC) |
| Upton | Walz | Wittman |
| Van Hollen | Wasserman | Womack |
| Vargas | Schultz | Woodall |
| Veasey | Watson Coleman | Yarmuth |
| Vela | Weber (TX) | Yoder |
| Velázquez | Webster (FL) | Yoho |
| Visclosky | Welch | Young (AK) |
| Wagner | Wenstrup | Young (IA) |
| Walberg | Westerman | Young (IN) |
| Walden | Westmoreland | Zeldin |
| Walker | Whitfield | Zinke |
| Walorski | Williams | |

NOT VOTING—27

| | | |
|-------------|----------|------------------|
| Bass | Hartzler | Rohrabacher |
| Castor (FL) | Hinojosa | Rush |
| Conyers | Hultgren | Sanchez, Loretta |
| Crawford | Knight | Speier |
| Crenshaw | Long | Stutzman |
| Engel | Meeks | Tonko |
| Fincher | Nadler | Valadao |
| Flores | Richmond | Waters, Maxine |
| Gutiérrez | Roe (TN) | Wilson (FL) |

□ 1856

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the placement of veterans in non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 107, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

AUTHORIZING SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO RECOUP BONUSES AND AWARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 280) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recoup bonuses and awards paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Miller) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PRESIDENT'S EXPORT COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to Executive Order 12131, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members on the part of the House to the President's Export Council:

Mr. KILDEE, Michigan
Ms. DELBENE, Washington

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 2 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission:

Mr. THOMPSON, California

□ 1900

FCC DECISION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, the FCC voted 3-2 on bipartisan lines to allow unprecedented government regulation of the Internet and reversing nearly two decades of bipartisan policy.

In a recent interview, FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai said, "This is a solution that won't work to a problem that doesn't exist." Mr. Speaker, the FCC Commissioner is exactly right. Why are trying to fix a problem that simply does not exist?

This decision by the FCC represents a dangerous and reckless disregard for free market principles and is just another example of government overreach by this administration.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama's 332-page plan to regulate the Internet will lead to slower services, less investment, and more taxation.

Together with my colleagues, I will continue to fight to keep a free and open Internet.

WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU

(Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the special friendship between the United States and Israel and to welcome Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu before his address on the challenges facing our two nations.

In their campaign of unparalleled savagery, the radical Islamic terrorists

known as ISIS have made the slaughter of innocent Christians a priority. In the face of this senseless violence, Israel stands as a beacon of safety. To end this barbarism, the United States, Israel, and all our allies should develop a long-term strategy to wipe ISIS off the Earth.

The United States and Israel are also confronted with the potential emergence of a nuclear Iran. Like Israel, our government should keep all options on the table to prevent this outcome.

In facing these and future challenges, our Nation is fortunate to call Israel a friend. Israel and the United States share common ideals of freedom, justice, and fair elections by the people in a republic.

I welcome Prime Minister Netanyahu back to Congress, and I look forward to his remarks on protecting our shared values against terrorism and a nuclear Iran.

THE LONE STAR STATE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the nation of Israel is surrounded by some mean, aggressive neighbors that want Israel destroyed. The leader of the pack of jackals is Iran. The Supreme Leader of Iran has made it clear he wants the Jewish state to vanish into the sands of time.

Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel will be here tomorrow to speak to Congress on the serious plight that Israel faces from our mutual enemy, Iran. The White House is snubbing the head of state because Congress supposedly violated protocol with the invite.

Meanwhile, the White House is blissfully working on a backroom deal with Iran regarding their nuclear weapon program, a deal that will end up to be good for Iran, with a short pause in work on its nuclear enrichment.

Mr. Speaker, Israel is the lone star state in the Middle East for freedom. So on this Texas Independence Day and on behalf of the people of the State of Texas, the Lone Star State, I want to welcome Prime Minister Netanyahu to speak candidly and openly about the true threat from the jackal of the desert, Iran.

And that is just the way it is.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MY HOME, THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, 179 years ago, a document from home changed the world with 102 final words. These words are:

We, therefore, the delegates with plenary powers of the people of Texas, in solemn convention assembled, appealing to a candid